

THE STRUGGLE FOR EXISTENCE

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can express nothing great. They cannot compare, analyze, and combine. They are overwhelmed by a flood of details, in which they cannot discern the ruling idea. The material and sensual constitute their limits. If they move they have to get a new language. The American languages are a soft mass which changes easily if tribes separate, or as time goes on, or if they move their habitat.¹ Sometimes measures are adopted in order to make the language unintelligible, as the Bushmen insert a syllable in a word to that end.² "The language of nature peoples offers a faithful picture of their mental status. All is in flux. Nothing is fixed or crystallized. No fundamental thoughts, ideas, or ideals are present. There is no regularity, logic, principles, ethics, or moral character. Lack of logic in thinking, lack of purpose in willing or acting, put the mind of a nature man on a plane with that of our children. Lack of memory, antilogic, paradox, fantasy in mental action, correspond to capriciousness, levity, irresponsibility, and the rule of emotions and passions in practical action/³ " Man's language developed because he could make, not merely passive and mechanical associative and reproductive combinations of notions, like a beast, but because he had active, free, and productive apperceptions, which appear in creative fantasy and logical reflection." ⁴ " Man does not speak because he thinks. He speaks because the mouth and larynx communicate with the third frontal convolution of the brain. This material connection is the immediate cause of articulate speech." ⁵ This is true in the sense that speech is not possible until the vocal organs are present, and are duly

connected with
the brain. "The specific cry, somewhat modified by
the vocal
resources of man, may have been sufficient for the
humble
vocabulary of the earliest ages, and there exists
no gulf, no
impassable barrier, between the language of birds,
dogs, anthro-
poid apes, and human speech." ⁶ "The warning or
summoning
cry, the germ of the demonstrative roots, is the
parent of the
names of number, sex, and distance; the emotional
cry of which

¹ *Schultze*, 86.

⁴ *find.*, 99.

² *Ibid.*, 89; *Am Urquell*, II, 22, 48. ⁵ *Lefevre, Race and Language*, 3.

⁸ *Schultze*, 91.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 27.